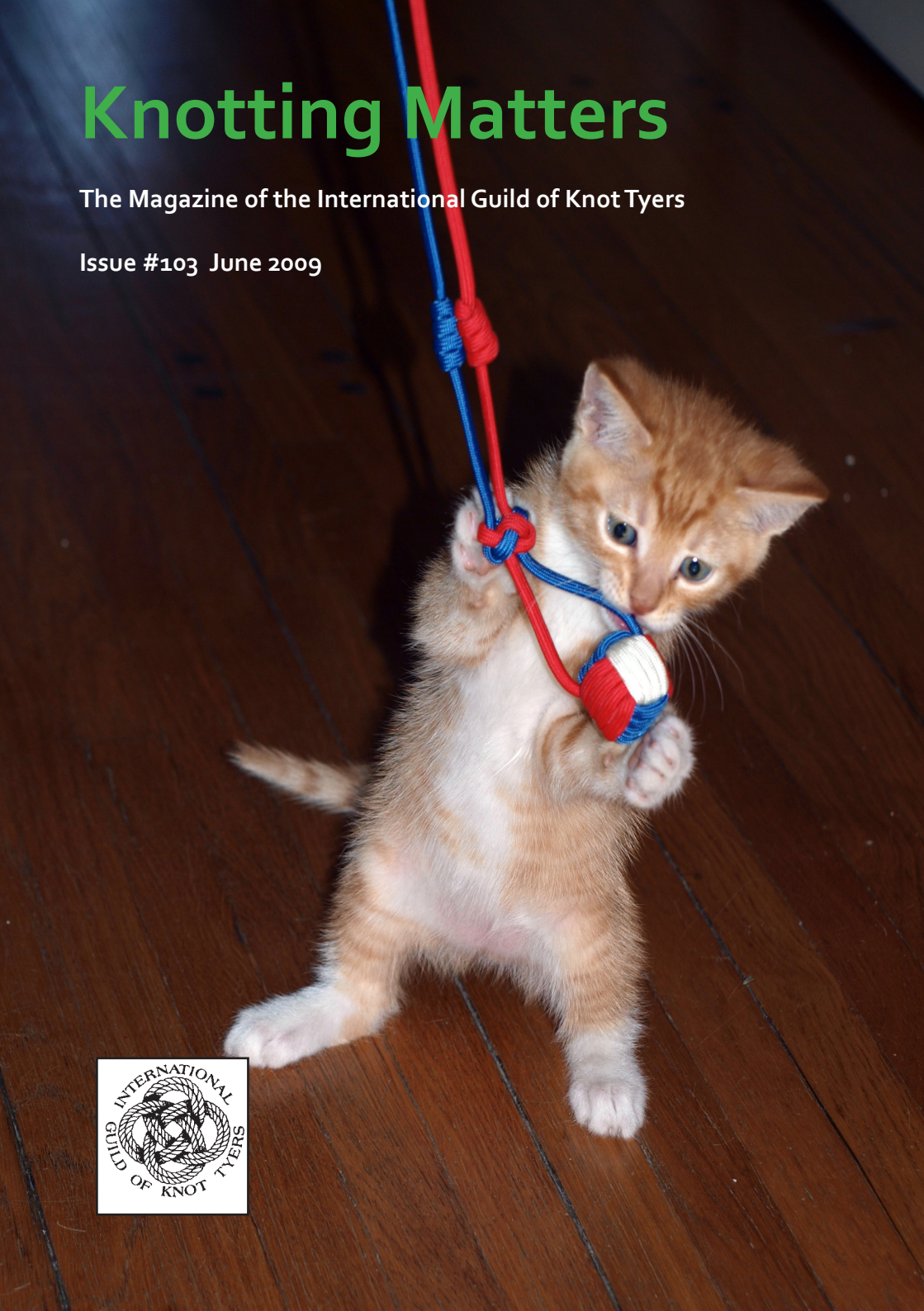
Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue #103 June 2009



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Issue 103 - June 2009 www.igkt.net

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front:

The editor's wife, Kim, has a penchant for photography, as shown here in her shot "I can do that!" courtesy of our new kitten, Butterscotch. Photo by Kim Moore. Knot is a special Monkey's Fist made by Charlie Bell of the PAB.

Back:

This gorgeously colorful bosun's call lanyard around the neck of Primero Marinero Caraballo of the Columbian Navy training ship, 249ft barque "Gloria" is a great reminder of the heritage that the ocean has provided to knot-tyers round the world.

See AGM report & center pages

Features

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From the Editor's Blotter

Well, June is upon us, the fair buds of May have started to blossom, graduates are ready with their newly-minted diplomas in hand to take on the world and many new parents are seeking asylum in the knowledge and caring of the precious new-born's grandparents! It is another new beginning and another ending - the cycle of life continues and we who remain stay grateful that our time is not yet spoken of in the past tense. The heritage that we have been lucky enough to garner from our friends now departed is enough to ask ourselves "Who have I helped today? Where have I made a difference?" Each of us has our part to play in life's panoply of popular parts. It is my sincere hope and trust that several of the young cadets at TS Orion, together with others in organized groups such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs and such others as are perhaps more loosely organized, are now thinking that knot-tying is more than just a hobby, but is, as our president put it, one of mankind's oldest tools. Let's all continue to try to use it as such!

I received a suggestion from Satish Patki, one of our members living in Pune, India, to insert a place in KM for reader's suggestions of "What Works for Me" - I think it is a great idea and that it only requires your input. What are your thoughts? His letter appears later in this issue.

As I write this series of thoughts, we are losing one of our stalwarts, Dave Walker, and we are gaining another Honorary Secretary, Barry Mault, who has stepped into the breach. Thank you to Dave and welcome to Barry! We are looking forward to his joining us and we wish him a speedy recovery from current illness - get well soon Barry! On a personal note I am finding that, the more I become aware of others' skills, the more I am impressed by the added value that each of our members brings. Our Council's past Chairman, Ken Nelson, is one of those people who has steered our Council so very well and so capably, yet with precious little time to sit on his laurels he is continuing to give his all and then some. Thank you Ken for guiding us all so very well and with such great insight to our characters and foibles. You have more than earned a rest - well done!

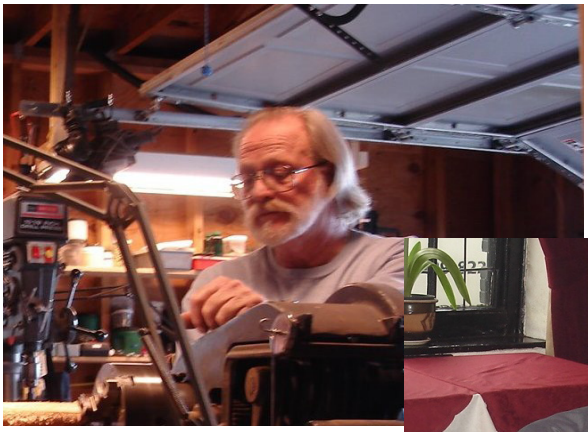
Having received a goodly supply of cord from Kevin Keatley in Tiverton, I am now in the throes of making several knots for display, demonstration and photography. I thank my lucky stars that I am married to a very talented woman, my lovely wife Kim, who feeds me with such enlivening photographs. I enjoy her photographs, particularly those that grace our covers, but please do not allow this great talent to overshadow your own contributions of photographs of knotting and knotting subjects. We still like to see your sharp, 2 MB or so, clear and in-focus shots of the projects on which you have been working. Your 4 by 6 photographs on glossy paper from Boots the Chemists are still fine, as long as I can scan them in. Please be aware that, because of the added cost of printing in color, I may not be able to insert all color photos and may have to change quite a few to black-and-white - keep them coming in color please! Add to those photos, please, your written contributions in Word, or as a text file or a simple written letter, for our next and subsequent issues, to share your efforts with your fellow knot-tyers. We need your articles, letters and brief "How-To's"!!

Wishing you all good speed, fair words and photos, and fair leads.

Sincerely yours, **Lindsey Philpott**

IN REMEMBRANCE

It is with great sadness that we have to report that four more turns have been taken out of our Guild's membership line, by the loss of "Bud" Brewer, Alan Lockwood , Alexandra Rayman and Gary Sessions, since the publication of our last Knotting Matters. Alan was in Felixstowe, Suffolk, UK, while our other three parts lived in Colorado, Ohio and Texas, USA. For all of them, we remember their lives lived to the fullest, while for each one an individual life remembered well by those closest. Please keep their families and loved ones near in your thoughts and hopes for the future. If any of you have special thoughts and remembrances of Alex and Alan, please write and let me know at knottingmatters@igkt.net Also, please take a look at the igkt.net web-site for memorial passages.



Bud Brewer (above) working on a 'spike at his lathe and Gary Sessions (right) enjoying some tea in Fareham at the Guild's Silver Jubilee. Photographs supplied by Lily Morales

Letters to the Editor

The views expressed in reader's letters do not necessarily reflect those of the IGKT Council. The Editor reserves the right to shorten any letter as necessary.

Dear Ed,

Referring to Geoffrey Budworth's note bewailing knotters being labelled as some sort of anachronism, once in a while I would find myself being asked about the IGKT (at boat shows and the like) "What do you do when you get together? Tie each other up?" at which I used to blush brightly, say "No!" and move on. Which is why in my time as editor I studiously avoided topics such as on page 15 of issue 102. [Mishima's Sword - Ed]
Now to my real reason for writing. I have just returned from an eyewateringly expensive budget holiday in Venice, Italy. I don't think I saw anything more than the odd half hitch and doubt seeing a bowline. Even seeing the hundreds of fishing boats large and small crowding the canals down in the fishing port of Chioggia, it's clear one needs no proper knotting to get on with life. Heresy?
What, however, I saw in abundance was superb rope handling on all of the ferries fast and slow, big and tiny when they manoeuvred hour after hour, landing and departing, moving folk around the lagoon. All ferry lines were sisal. All creaked under tension. Once in a while they squeaked and banged and parted. It's interesting seeing how ropes work in the everyday and how folk get along just fine with no fancy theory and nothing elaborate.

With kind regards,

Robert Jackson, West Midlands UK

Ahoy Lindsey,
Finally read through the latest Knotting Matters, good issue especially the article by Barry Brown,,, good show.
I do have a couple of comments on Budworth's paper "My Quibble with the ABOK".
There are some things I agree on and some I question, in his paper. As far as ABOK, I have long time feelings about it and possibly look at it far differently than others that hold it up as the "Knotters Bible". I have two ABOK's; one I have had since the very early 1950's, I believe I obtained it in 1950 and the other was given to me by an old friend in the mid 1960's. I value the volume as a historic document. I began to value it even more when so many years ago I started working on my book or tome, "The Evolution of Sails and Sailmaking Between 1600 & 1850." I wanted to determine when the "sailmaker's eyesplice" or the sailmaker's confined splice came into existence and their variants. These splices sailmakers used regularly until the late 1950's and their use has unfortunately, steadily diminished. There are also the variants of the "cringle", another most common to the old sailmakers and I could list eight others if need be. Where, and I have diligently researched other references, could you find their origin, or earliest use or their variants. Try it, at least Ashley has some references or comments on their earlier existence. This is something other "common books", never document. His references and comments allowed me to make the next step. So we can consider it a capsule of time, but I do not consider it a book for beginning knot tyers. Years ago, actually not that long ago, 55 years, when trying to tie a complex (for me) terminal knot, one that I had not been shown how

to make. I went off on my own and used my ABOK, but I just could not see through the workings of it. That led me to discover that if I slowly re-drew the knot steps in a better 3D form as I was tying the knot, I could finally crack it. So the book definitely has its draw backs (little pun there).
Geoffrey's comment on the outmoded words; depends who you are, what you do and where one lives. Young midshipmen, cadets, and the like must know (better know) many of the outmoded words very well when on the training vessels, the words like robands, flaking, brailing and bousing (I believe the spelling is bowse). In the last year I made nine "Sprit Sails" for small boats and I had to draw and explain the "Snotter" to two thirds of the customers, so how can we say the word is outmoded or irrelevant as with the others?
However [I am uncertain of] the word, "thrum" and when I have time I will try to look that one up. (The origin of words, more so maritime words, is one of my favorite fascinations. This leads me to my wish that I had a better command of the English language.)

I am a practitioner of "Esoteric Maritime History and Methods", otherwise the information that is nearly lost forever would be, this information IS valuable for it is our roots. I have grumped long enough and I will remain in my office and or sail-loft out of the way.
From the Grand Curmudgeon,
Cheers!

Louie Bartos Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, U.S.A.
[This was an e-mail letter that I have edited for length - Ed]

Dear Sir,

On reading Mr. Budworth's patronizing letter, I feel I must come out in defence of Clifford Ashley, a man who has done more than anyone else to save the knot-craft of a now by-gone way of life, when knots, splices and fancy-work was at its zenith, onboard the many sailing vessels that voyaged all over the world, with multi-national crews, hence the rich and varied variety of knots. I see no reason why seamen should not be responsible for nine tenths of all recorded knots, as Ashley claims.
In the acknowledgement section of the Ashley Book of Knots, the first line reads; "They are too many, the sailors from whom I learned to tie knots, for me ever to accord the credit that is their due."
Mr. Budworth states "at the time of publication, as now, there was little evidence of real knotting afloat." Where does he get this from, has he ever been "afloat"? Up to the time of the arrival of the container ship when cheap labour destroyed the British Merchant Navy, which was second to none, there was plenty of evidence of rope-work, especially in the Refrigerated Cargo Liners that traded with the Commonwealth. Of course seamen know how to tie knots, going to sea is one of the few professions where knot-tying is a requirement, as life depends on secure knot tying especially when working aloft. Before a candidate goes to sea he/she has to go through an extensive training program where they are taught knots, splices and seamanship.
Finally Mr. Budworth's reference to sea terms as "outmoded irrelevances." Let me assure him that most of these terms are still in use today, and for a landsman to make a statement like

that on a subject he obviously knows nothing whatever about is, in my eyes, ignorance. I just happen to know what I am talking about, being a seaman for the last 49 years, 44 years under the Red Ensign, and 5 years in various types of fishing vessels, and let me further assure him that Clifford Ashley's Book of Knots was a godsend on many a long sea voyage, and I am sure it will still be published, bought, and enjoyed, a long time after Mr. Budworth's efforts have long been forgotten.

Yours sincerely,
John L. Jamieson, Village of Symbister, Island of Whalsay, Shetland Islands

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I must take Geoffrey Budworth to task over his quibble with Ashley Book of Knots and his reflections on the modern seafarer in Knotting Matters Issue No. 102. Having recently retired after spending 46 years at sea and serving on a large variety of Merchant Vessels as a professional seafarer, I have now established a Rigging business here in my home port.

In my early years at sea I was privileged to sail with many seafarers who voyaged under sail and honed their skills in the harshest of environments. These men were proud to pass on their knowledge to their shipmates and in working alongside them learning the terminology and skills required. Rigging, overhauling gear, doubling up racking down, anchor and cable work all lead to the term "to hand reef and steer" and I fully endorse Professor Cyrus Lawrence Day's statement as quoted by Geoffrey Budworth.

It's a sad indictment when the art and ability of seafarers is denigrated. Having sailed to many countries and visited too many ports to name, I have found that many countries hold their seafarers in high esteem and we should be promoting their skills along with all facets, that as members of IGKT, we hold dear. Using Ashleys as a teaching aid will continue to simplify and whet the appetite of prospective knot tyers, regardless of their ability.

Shipping, as with most industries, has changed dramatically over the past decade but what has given me the most pleasure was to see young seafarers keen to learn the trade and take pride in their achievements, perhaps turning out a Star Knot for a "comb hanger", or a palm and needle whipping or clewing up the ship short-handed.

Take a stroll around any busy port Geoffrey and you will see the well found vessels along with the derelict hulks, but more importantly observe the art and skills of the seafarer.

Forrest McDougall
Wires Ropes & Rigging
Picton 7250
New Zealand

[Ed: This has been an enlightening experience for me, to learn of action and reaction. We will give Mr. Budworth a chance at rebuttal if he so desires in the next issue - do keep your letters coming and your eyes peeled!]

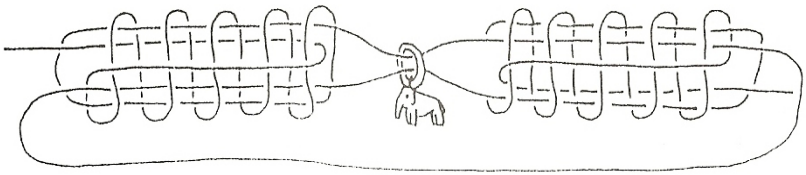
Hi,
I'm wondering if I can get a copy [of] the issue 41 of Knotting Matters. I'm looking for instruction on the African elephant hair bracelet pattern, and I believe it is in that issue. Any advice on how to find the instructions for the bracelet would be much appreciated.

Thank you.
Andri G

[Here you go Andri - direct from Issue #41! - Ed. PS If you are not an IGKT member, please write and let us know]

AFRICAN BRACELET

During 1961, a number of Metropolitan Police Officers were seconded to Nyasaland. One of them, a Sergeant from Thames Division (London's River Police), returned wearing the bracelet shown below. It was tied directly onto his wrist by a native servant and couldn't be removed as sliding the knots apart tightened it more. The elephant charm was carved from a fragment of tusk ivory, and the bracelet tied in a coarse, plastic-like, hair from the animal's tail.
G.B.



Dear Lindsey,

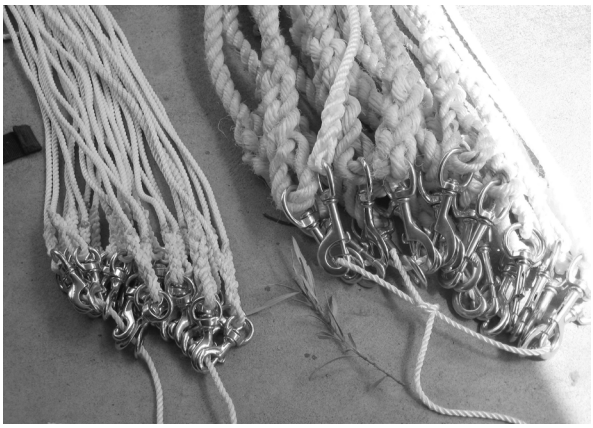
I should point out that due credit from my article in the last issue of KM#102 was not properly given. The drawings were copied from "Nets, How to Make, Mend and Preserve Them" by G. A Steven, published by READ BOOKS.

Sincerely,
Ken Higgs
[This was my mistake and we have now pointed out the relevant copyright holders, with my apologies - Ed]

Dear Lindsey,
After the horrific fires in Victoria Australia, the animals were also left without links to their families. Local IGKT members gathered at the home of Leo Duneleavy on the suggestion of Bob Hammer (who heard an appeal from a local Police Station) and turned their talent to making leashes for dogs and leads for horses so that they could be contained and receive appropriate care. Mike Ridley secured clasps. Leo Duneleavy, (with special thanks to CMDR Andy Vega, Coast Guard, St. Kilda, Victoria) who obtained the larger cordage for the horses, and all members spliced feverishly to produce 30 leashes and 30 horse leads in 2 hours on a Saturday afternoon. These were delivered to the coordinators of the bushfire relief and were very welcome in assisting the victims of the fires.

Yours,
Bob Hammer

In the photograph above, L to R, Debby Peake, Peter Hopper, Mike Ridley, Mick Garriock, Leo Duneleavy, Murray Peake, Bob Hammer. Photo left, leashes left and leads right.



Dear Sir,

I have been [a] member of the IGKT for many years and my contributions have been printed in the past issues of Knotting Matters.

I am sure that many knot tyers would have some tips that they would like to share with the fellow members. Such tips would not be big enough for an article and would be too small [too large? - Ed] to be covered in the Post Bag.

Kindly explore the possibility of introducing a new feature entitled "Take it from me " under which such tips can be covered.

Regards,
Satish Patki

[Satish - I think that this is a great idea and I welcome it. Does anyone have any tips to share? If so, look for them in the next issue of your Knotting Matters - Ed]

Sir –
We have completed the suspension bridge at the Boys and Girls Club in Vancouver, WA. I have received permission from the Club to send some of the photos of the construction and finished product to you and for you to publish in your newsletter as you requested.
Your advice on the knots was well used and the bridge did not fall down. As you can see in the photos the braids were not all the same so this made the final assembly more difficult as the 'stretch' in each of the stays was different. The knots were tied by 30 different hands so were much varied but we did have a session where the kids practiced before they worked on the final bridge.... This will all be undone and materials saved for another bridge project as the materials were largely donated and funds are always short for these kinds of things. The knots will facilitate a fairly easy 'deconstruction' project for another Young Engineers Class.
I appreciate your assistance very much and hope that you can use at least a few of the photos.

PS The kids will be very pleased to see that their work has 'legs'. The Columbian Newspaper sent a reporter and photographer on the day of the final assembly so the kids and the club got some well deserved local attention. http://columbian.com/article/20090328/NEWS02/703289976

Thank you again for your assistance.

Carl Klinge, Engineering Manager
carl@edtcorp.com Vancouver, WA 98665

[Carl contacted us (the PAB) to ask about knots that kids could tie - the decorative and handsome result is printed in full color on page 40 - well done, all of you! Ed]

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My Fellow Knot Tyers

This letter is being written, and finished, in a manner that can best be compared to a well used piece of line. My thoughts and details here cover the span of two continents and two time periods, much in the same makeup of a line, two ends and body.

The first end begins here in the USA, as I spend time putting together my plans for the trip across the pond to the AGM in Nottingham. It is hard for me to fathom that the first year since my election as president of the Guild is coming to a conclusion. I cannot thank all the council members enough for all the work that it takes and that all have been put in to operate the Guild. The truth is that this has really been a year of education for me and that the operation timetable and procedure is on a solid footing.

It has also been a time of sadness with the passing of a number of our members around the world. But of this short list, my greatest sorrow is the death of Gary Sessions. Though we saw each other from time to time at meetings here in the United States, it was not truly until the 25th Anniversary meeting in England that I felt that I got to know the true man he was. Gary always had the Guild's best interest at heart and always had ideas and ways to accomplish them both at the Texas Branch and International level. Two of his most desired passions were making ditty bags and for a Guild president to be elected from the USA. I cannot really express my feeling at his loss to us, having been informed that it was his recommendation that I be considered for the role of president of the Guild. For this, I will always be proud and grateful to Gary. May he, and all deceased members, rest in peace.

I can say now that I feel comfortable to be more a part of the working end of the council and cannot wait to start working with the newly elected council members, as well as with all our worldwide branches and members. With this goal in hand, I also feel inclined to appeal to all Guild members to help take charge and ownership, in their own way, in the Guild's unity and direction. From the Guild's constitution, the objective of our formation is "... the advancement of education for the public benefit ..."

To accomplish this objective, for me the art of communication and understanding tops the list of needs to tackle. This is one that can be realized through the use of both the aged method of the written word, and the new era of the World Wide Web, to meet head on the issue of any language barriers that exists. I view this objective as the continuing work of the goals of our past presidents, especially our immediate past president Ken Yalden, who have seen fit to make our organization truly International.

The second end finds me now on the shores of England with a little time before the AGM to visit the area around London and particularly the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich with fellow American Bob Dollar. I have been reminded from time to time that the historical time line of the USA may be viewed as "just yesterday" to the countries of the United Kingdom and most of the rest of the world. So it is great to be better informed to the past interactions of nations and to see how the art of knots and lines, that we practice, took form and spread from ocean to ocean around the world and still intertwines in the fabric of life today. But the real joy of this trip is the meeting. The chance to reunite with old friends, meet new ones and to experience and learn from the vast knowledge of those who were able to attend is indescribable. For those who were not able to attend, I can only pray that one day you may

experience the sheer wonderment of such a meeting.
The venue, planning and set up of the weekend fell upon the shoulders of our Council Hon. Chairman Ken Nelson. His tenacious drive and personality shined bright, as always, and provided all of us with everything we could expect to need. Without him, I cannot imagine how the year would have unfolded. However, I am sad to report that Ken has decided to step down from the council after years of service, the last two as Hon. Chairman. Ken, my friend, I thank you with all my heart.

The venue at T.S. Orion and the interaction with the sea cadets added greatly for a picture perfect event. The leadership of Lt Cdr (SCC) Michelle Welsh MCGI RNR proved why this unit has rated at the top of all the Training Ship programs in England since her arrival to the unit. The meeting concluded with a traditional Naval Mess Dinner put on by the staff and cadets of T.S. Orion. From the piping in to dinner, the passing of the port, through the formal toasts, the dinner was a magnificent finish to the 27th Annual Meeting.

In conclusion of the meeting, I am proud to establish a new award, the President's Cup. With the agreement of the Executive Council, this honor, a pewter Loving Cup, is to be awarded by the President to the individual(s) whose hard work has contributed greatly to the Guild worldwide. In establishing this award, I have first dedicated it to the memory of Past President Brian Field. Brian saw the value and need to get overseas members to the annual meeting. Past ideas for a fund, in his honor, to help defray the cost of attendance for worthy individuals has never been able to be clearly worked out. Brian's four year term has set the standard for all successive presidents, always to keep in mind that we are the International Guild of Knot Tyers.

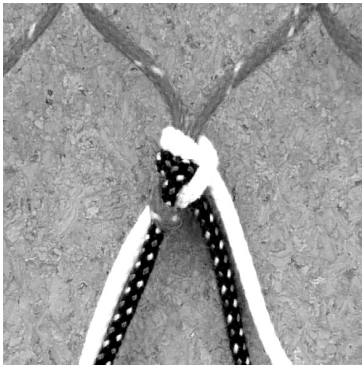
It is with great honor that I awarded, for the first time, the President's Cup to Linda and Bruce Turley. Their years of service and dedication to the Guild made their selection an obvious and deserved choice. Congratulations to Linda and Bruce.

I end this letter with a request. It is through meetings and knotting events that we establish bonds, reach out to the community and promote our organization. Please keep us informed of all events that will be of interest to our members worldwide to either attend or to help in putting on the display. Please post to the web and/or put into Knotting Matters, in advance, all important information for your fellow knot-tyers.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

Photograph by Ken Nelson of Dan and Bernard enjoying a moment with a Turk's Head at Bernard's home - these frames are incredible! - Ed

A Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend & Variation, For use in net making.



A How-To by Barry Brown

How do all ;-)
A few years ago, when I first started working on a design for a monofilament cast net I was planning to make, I found that the many methods of joining in a new line, whilst making a net, that I knew of were not satisfactory for my needs; by satisfactory, I mean that none of the bends I tried fulfilled the role of looking good as well as making a strong, durable join. So I started playing around, like you do, and I discovered a bend that better suited my needs for joining in a new needle of twine, and also a variation of the same bend, both of which I would like to share with you here.
I have not seen either of these in print or documented anywhere else, so I am quite happy to claim these as my own discoveries; if however, anyone can give me any book reference or other documentary evidence to either of the two bends I describe here, I will happily give recognition where deserved.

I have shown / taught one or both of these methods to a fair few people now over the past few years and I have heard no complaints of failure or unsuitability from anyone (yet) so I will consider it safe to share this information without fear of being sued for premature net failure ;-)

Both of the bends I would like to share with you are variations on the standard interlaced mesh knot method of joining in a new line, which I will also show here first so as to save confusion, as these bends are very similar in construction. Please also note that there are many different methods for joining in a new line whilst net making, some use very strong, simple bends which join the old and new lines together; some where the old and new lines are bent to the bottom of the above mesh (completing a mesh knot whilst making the join), some will be better suited than the ones I describe here for some applications; [they may be better suited] for instance, where the join may need to be practically invisible or where the strength of the join is a more important consideration than the look of the finished net.

The advantages of the Bends I have discovered are:
Because of the alternately stacked nature of the old and new line parts in the bend, it is very hard for the complete join to come loose in use; or for any one line to come out of the join.
The bend is very easy to make and can be made tight from the start, so there is no need to leave a loose starter knot to be followed around with the new line. This also makes getting the meshes even in size much easier and quicker.
In small twine; the bends I have shown here do not detract too much from the overall design of the net as they resemble a mesh knot when finished and their extra bulk is hardly noticeable in the finished net (Please see figure 8 for an example).
I have also found these bends to work equally well in many different types, constructions and sizes of material, including monofilament Nylon, plain and bonded Nylon twines, Polypropylene and Polyethylene twines, Polyester, Cotton, Flax, Linen, Sisal and even in some un-named exotic braid I have tried.

The Interlaced Mesh Bend. (For want of a better Name)

Figures 1 & 2 show the normal method of tying in a new line using this bend. I personally find that this bend can loosen with rough use; and also when tied in some slick materials.

Figure 1:
The end of the old line (dark) is first tied into a loose mesh knot in the next mesh of the above row (grey).

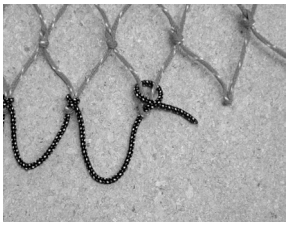
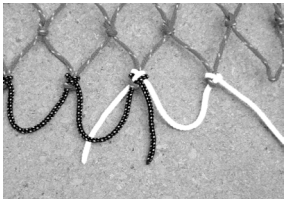


Figure 2:
The new line (white) is brought in from behind and follows the lead of the loose mesh knot tied in the old line and then all parts are dressed and tightened carefully. (Note; you can follow the old lead above or below but I have found that following it above gives a more secure knot).



The Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend; or S.I.M Bend for short.

This is the bend I prefer for most of my net making.

Figure 3:
The old line (dark) is passed through the next upper mesh from the rear and the new line (white) is brought in from the rear and placed on top of and across the old line from left to right as shown.

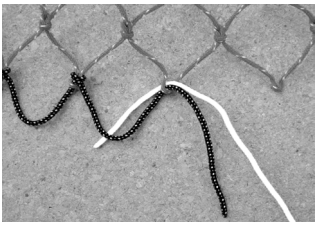


Figure 4:
A hitch is made with the w'end of the old line around the legs of the upper mesh the legs of the new line and just above the completing the first mesh knot in this join. is tightened,

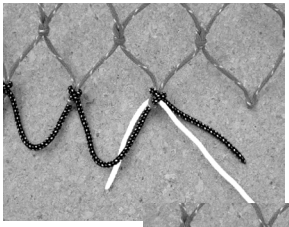
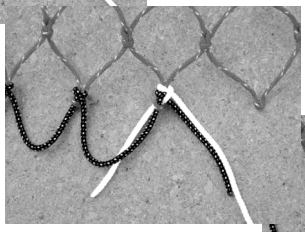


Figure 5:
A hitch is made with the w'end of the new line around the legs of the upper mesh knot in the old line and just above finished is tightened, completing this version of the Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend



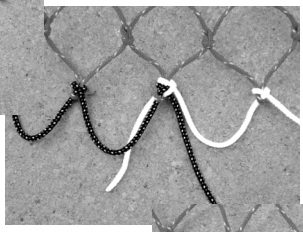


Figure 6:
The new line is then used as normal to carry on with the next section of netting.

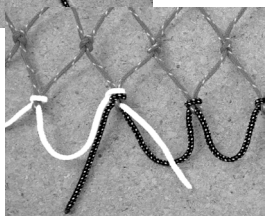


Figure 7:
This picture shows the back view of the Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend.

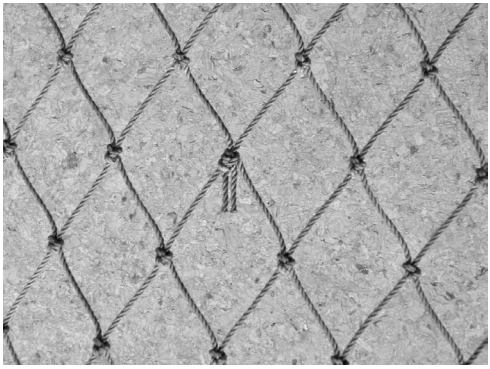


Figure 8:
This picture shows the Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend made in one of my nets.
In a working net I like to leave the ends about ½ a bar in length so there will be no chance of the bend slipping and coming undone, this also makes it much easier to re-adjust the bend if for some reason you needed to.

If the bend is to be used in a decorative net where the ends might detract from the overall design they can be trimmed short, and if made in a synthetic material the ends can be very carefully melted to seal the knot.

The Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend (Variation).
This version is almost identical to the previous join but the old and new lines are arranged slightly different from the previous bend. I do not think the lead of the new line coming out of this bend is as fair as in the previous bend.

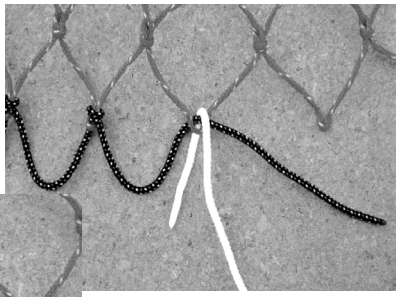


Figure 9:
The old line (dark) is passed through the next upper mesh from the rear and the new line (white) is brought in from the rear and placed on top of and across the old line from right to left as shown.

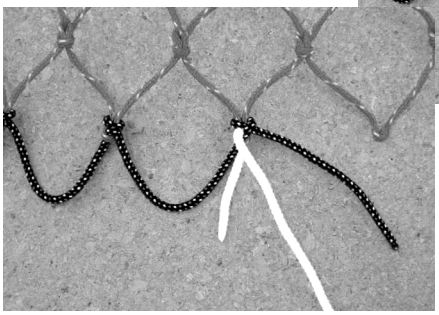


Figure 10:
A hitch is made with the w'end of the old line around the legs of the upper mesh is tightened, comin this bend.

just above the new line and
pleting the first mesh knot

Figure 11:
A hitch is made with the w'end of the new line around the legs of the upper mesh just above finished mesh knot in the old line and is tightened, completing this version of the Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend.

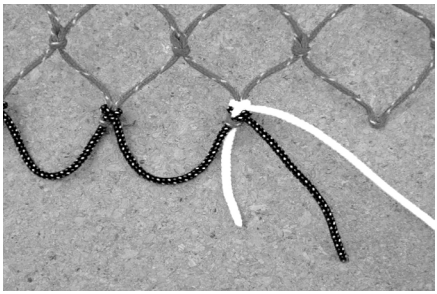


Figure 12:
The new line (white) is then used as normal to carry on with the next section of netting.

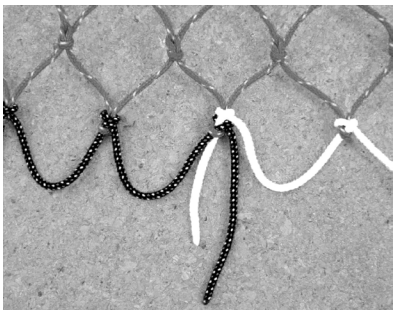
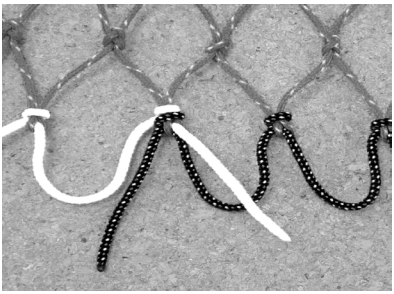


Figure 13:
This picture shows the back view of the Stacked, Interlaced Mesh Bend (Variation).



Thank you for taking the time to read my article; I hope that one, or both, of these bends may be of some practical use to you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have regarding this article, my details are in the hand book but my correct email is bazbrown@tiscali.co.uk and not bazbrown@tesco.net as shown.

Take care,
Barry ;-)

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Netted Cube Stitch Bottle Bag

Photographs and description by Lily Quaills Morales

Materials:

Size 9 Bonded Nylon Seine Twine – as much as it takes to fill:
3 small (8.5 X 160) Norwegian needles (shuttles) full of twine, or equivalent.
DO NOT OVERWIND NEEDLES, or they will not fit through the small meshes!
5/8-inch (16 mm) and 1-inch (25 mm) mesh sticks (gauges)

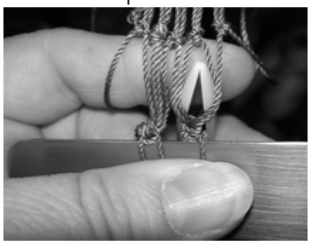
Leave a standing end of approximately one yard (one meter). Using the 5/8 inch (16 mm) mesh stick, make foundation of 15 half-meshes. Form ring and tie working end and standing end into a reef knot or overhand knot, very tightly against the center of the ring. Drop down by tying working end and standing end into an overhand knot, which forms the 16th half-mesh (16 meshes, including the dropdown, throughout bag pattern).

Round 1: Work one mesh in each half-mesh around. Drop down.

SWITCH TO 1 INCH MESH STICK.

Rnd 2: Work one mesh in each mesh around. BEFORE DROPPING DOWN, take both the working and standing ends up through the FIRST mesh of THIS round. Drop down by tying an overhand knot, capturing this loop in that knot.

Round 3: Work one mesh in the center space of the dropdown mesh (coming up in the space between the mesh and the dropdown lines and then finish the mesh knot). (Work one mesh in the next two meshes TOGETHER [decrease], then work one mesh in the same stitch [increase], as in the first mesh of this row) SEVEN TIMES. Drop down.



Round 4-9: Repeat Rounds 2 and 3, alternately, three more times – REMEMBER to capture the first mesh of the round, in the dropdown knot of each EVEN-NUMBERED round!

SWITCH TO 5/8-INCH MESH STICK.

Round 10: Work one mesh in each mesh around. Drop down.

Handle: Continue as if to make another round of one mesh in each mesh, but stop after working only THREE meshes. Turn and, making selvage edge, work one mesh in each mesh across. To make a selvage edge, go up through the mesh in the previous row, then make the knot around the "dropdown" twine, as well as the mesh – all three strands. You are no longer using the standing end, so just leave it until the bag is finished. I don't like to cut it off until the entire bag is finished, for fear it may work loose.

Continue making rows of 3 meshes, in this manner, for a total of 26 rows, or desired length. Take the handle, carefully so as not to twist it, and line it up with the next unworked meshes of the last round of the bag. Join the handle with a mesh in the bag, then a mesh in the next unworked mesh of the handle, back and forth, ending with a fourth mesh in the bag. Take working end down into the "V" between last mesh worked and next unworked mesh of the last round of the bag and attach with a knot, forming a selvage edge there. Now take the working end up out of the "V" and knot into the next unworked mesh.

Work one mesh in each of the next three unworked meshes of the bag, then turn to make the second handle the same as the first. Join to bag as before. Finish off, by cutting all loose ends flush with the knots and using "Zap-A-Gap CA+" (Cyanoacrylate) to seal those knots. Hang bag overnight with a weight inside to help set the knots.

Special Thanks to Rita Bartholomew and her http://knotsindeed.com/gallery/decorative/cube.html website!

This bag is designed specifically to fit the Thermos® TherMax™ Coldware® Hydration Bottle, 18 oz/500 ml. Other bottles "may" fit.

The 2009 AGM and Knot Gathering

from our Midlands Stringer

They came by plane, train, car, boat and even trike, to the weekend of knot tying and AGM of the IGKT, held on the River Trent in Nottingham, UK. This was the third time that the Guild had held its meeting at TS Orion, the Sea Cadet establishment, courtesy of their Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander (SCC) Michelle Welsh MCGI RNR.
As usual with these gatherings, some members started arriving on the Friday to set up their displays and stalls and renew acquaintances. Saturday morning dawned fine and clear and the wind of previous days dropped as more members arrived and booked in at the reception. Around 60 members came from countries such as France, Germany, Holland, USA, Japan, Wales, Scotland and England, giving a very international flavour to the weekend.

The AGM

The business part of the meeting started with Michelle Welsh welcoming everyone to TS Orion and outlining domestic and safety arrangements and explained that she was the Guild's newest member, having joined the previous evening on her 40th birthday.
President Dan Machowski opened the meeting and asked us to remember those members who had passed on to higher things this year - Mariann Palmborg; Gary Sessions; 'Bud' Brewer; Alan Lockwood and Alexandra Raymond.
Dave Walker then went on to give his final report before stepping down as Hon. Secretary. He thanked Bruce and Linda Turley for their help in sorting out the database and membership issues, as well as keeping the Guild on a financial footing. He thanked his wife Anne for all her support over the years, and presented her with a pot plant as a mark of recognition. Dave then went on to acquaint the meeting about Barry Mault, who had been proposed as Dave's successor as Hon. Sec.
Linda Turley gave her treasurers report and told the meeting that the Guild was in a sound financial situation. She also spoke of how the 'credit crunch' had affected interest rates on our investments.
Bob Dollar (USA) outlined details of the half-yearly meeting at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Willeke van der Ham gave details of a meeting to be held at Rotterdam, Holland, for those unable to attend the USA meeting. This is to be held on the last weekend of October 2009 at the Maritime Museum. Richard Hopkins gave some brief details of the next AGM at another Sea Cadet establishment, TS Weston at Weston-Super-Mare in May 2010.
Marilee Warner was selected to give a 'Portrait of a Knot Tyer'. She explained how she came into knotting via needlework and tatting, then into Chinese knotting and finally finding the IGKT on the Internet. After attending a meeting at Newport News, she thought, "Hey this is a cool group to be involved with", and, now living in Germany, has been able to attend a number of meetings.
The results of the election of members to council were: Barry Mault (Hon. Sec.); Linda Turley (Treasurer); Phil Cook, Don Burrhus, Jane Bamford and Colin Grundy (Council Members).
To close the meeting, Dan gave thanks to Lindsey Philpott for his work as KM Editor, Dave Walker as Hon. Sec. and he presented Ken Nelson with an engraved shot glass for his work as Chairman. He then explained that a 'President's Cup' would be inaugurated in memory of former President, Brian Field. This, a beautiful pewter loving cup was presented to Linda and Bruce Turley for all their work over nearly 25 years.

Knot Tying

The day progressed into the now successful formula of knot tying events and workshops. Des and Liz Pawson and Bruce Turley plied their wares in the form of cord, books and tools, and Dave Walker did business selling Guild books in his role as Supplies Secretary. The Sea Cadets ensured that members were fed and watered, and members chatted around the various displays of each other's work.

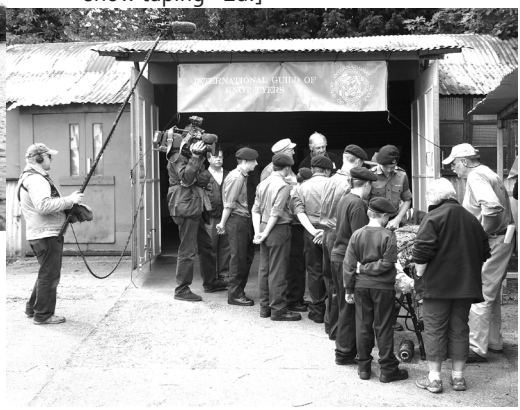
Numerous workshops were run, either on a formal basis or in some cases informally and were taken up with enthusiasm by the Sea Cadets and their instructors. The London arm of CBS News came to see and film just what knot tyers get up to when we gather together. [Ed. here is a link for those who wish to see the piece http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=5028407n] Earlier in the week, a local newspaper, the Nottingham Evening Post, had interviewed IGKT founder member Bernard Cutbush at his home nearby. Bernard has a long association with the Nottingham Sea Cadets, and members, who know Bernard, will know what a high standard he works to. The Education Forum was again held to gain ideas for advancing the education objectives of the Guild.

Knot Supper

In the evening, a Mess Dinner was provided for some 55 members of the Guild and their partners by the Cadets of TS Orion. A three-course meal, followed by cheese and biscuits was prepared and served by the young people who did great credit to their ship. The usual round of toasts was made, before Michelle was presented with a knot board made by members of the IGKT to mark her 40th birthday. Also, as a token of the Guild's gratitude, TS Orion was present with a collection of books and training materials to aid the Cadets in their ropework. Meals and formalities over, it was time to chat, tie more knots or be entertained by the 'Frayed Knots', who this year comprised anyone who cared to sing or play an instrument. It is rumoured that even our President; Dan Machowski was seen to play guitar [see Index - Ed.]!

Sunday Morning

The next morning, those members who stayed then relaxed in bright sunshine to chat and tie knots again, while some were treated to a trip down the River Trent aboard Dave and Penny Bodger's narrowboat, Arkaroo. Finally, it was time to bid farewell to each other and TS Orion until the next gathering of knot tyers. [Below: Peaceful morning and CBS News-show taping - Ed.]



Annual Ger

20

Bernard Cutbush being interviewed by Sarah Firth, journalist of the Nottingham Evening Post, at his home

Lt. Cdr (SCC) Michelle Welsh on her birthday receiving a knot-board for her well-appreciated efforts at bringing together another fine meal and meeting venue at TS Orion (lower center)

...and some arrived by boat - skippers Dave and Penny Bodger and crew of narrowboat Arkaroo (lower left)

neral Meeting
09

(center top) - Marilee Warner , Barry Brown and Willeke van der Ham discuss some of knotting's finer points…

Liz Pawson being kept busy with rapid sales of cord and other supplies from Footrope Knots (top right)

Linda and Bruce Turley jointly receive the newly inaugurated President's Cup from Dan Machowski (lower right)

Knots under the Microscope - by Rodger Ide.

Part 1 of 2 parts: second part in next Issue of KM - Ed.

The forensic examination of knotted material

The growing popularity of the CSI series of programmes, has led to an unhealthy interest in forensic science. Unfortunately now, criminals are becoming increasingly forensically aware and are taking precautions to avoid leaving trace evidence such as DNA.

Happily this does not normally apply in the case of the forensic examination of knots and ligatures. Murders by hanging and strangulation are not normally pre-planned in sufficient detail to mislead pathologists and forensic scientists. Murderers and suicides alike tend to leave a wealth of trace evidence in addition to the physical evidence from knots, and the medical evidence of bruising and parchmented skin.

I have, during my forensic science career, written statements in approximately 7000 cases; roughly 400 of which involved the interpretation of knots. It has become increasingly clear to me that the actual knots provide far less evidence than the manner in which they had been tied.

Most criminals have very little knot tying knowledge, tying predominantly granny knots and overhand bends. This might seem to be reassuring to the readers of this paper, because Guild members would appear to correlate better with law-abiding citizens. Sadly most law-abiding citizens are as "knot illiterate" as most criminals.

Granny knots.

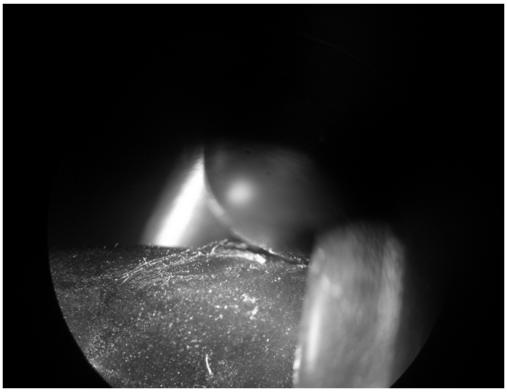
Whilst many of the knots tied during the commission of crimes are simply granny knots, there are of course two chiral forms, which in the British Home Office notation are known as d.d. granny knots and l.l. granny knots. These correlate with Robert Chisnall's SS and ZZ respectively[1], but since Home Office scientists have been using this convention for over 30 years in courts of law, it would cause legal difficulties if they were to change their notation at this late stage.

In common with reef knots, granny knots can "capsize" or invert; a complete inversion resulting in a clove hitch tied on the standing part. There are however several different forms of partial inversion, all of which can provide evidence as to the direction of force acting upon the knot.

In an asymmetrical knotted system, the humble granny knot can exist in 18 forms, most of which can provide significant evidence. Analogously the more respectable reef knot can also exist in 18 forms. A double knot can therefore be any one of 36 isomeric types when tied in an asymmetrical system, even without considering the possibility of accidentally tied slip loops (which commonly occur in crime knots).

It is sometimes difficult to establish whether a knot had been tied originally as a granny knot or in one of the inverted (capsized) forms.

This insulated flex [*see prior page - Ed.*] was alleged to have been tied around the wrist of a complainant by three violent men. The knot consists of two l. half hitches, topologically identical to a fully inverted l.l. granny knot. It could theoretically have been tied either in its present form, or as a granny knot which subsequently inverted.



Microscopical examination of the interior of the same knot. The abrasion damage demonstrates conclusively that the knot had originally been tied in the form of two half hitches rather than as a granny knot. The second half hitch had been tied so forcefully that it damaged the insulation of the portion of wire forming the first half hitch.

Types of evidence.

Two of the main types of evidence produced by forensic scientists are implicative (linking) and interpretive. Implicative evidence can link a particular person with a crime scene, victim or vehicle.

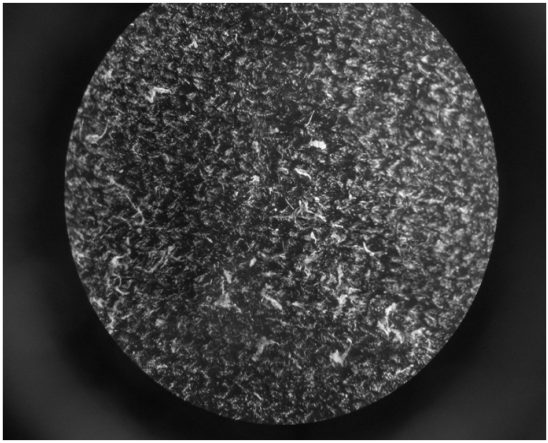
Knots are unlikely to provide useful linking evidence except under unusual circumstances. They can however provide very good interpretive evidence, helping to reconstruct how the crime or incident occurred.

Implicative (linking) evidence can only be fairly presented to court against a background of statistical information. I am only aware of one significant body of statistical information on the frequency of occurrence of particular knots in criminal investigations.[2]

Careless examination of a knotted system, before all possible trace evidence has been considered, is likely to destroy far more linking evidence than it produces. All examinations must therefore be carried out under laboratory conditions taking precautions against possible contamination. Trace materials which could be encountered include: glass, paint, oil, grit, plaster, brick dust, rust, fibres, hairs, skin, saliva, seminal fluid, blood and biological material containing DNA. Trace material weighing less than a milligram may be sufficient to provide very powerful linking evidence. A milligram is approximately 0.000035 of an ounce.

Good DNA evidence can produce linking probabilities in which the odds of a random match are described by numbers normally only used by astronomers and Zimbabwean bankers.

Whilst the presence of trace material may provide extremely strong evidence, the exact position of the material may be of great significance, and should be established microscopically.

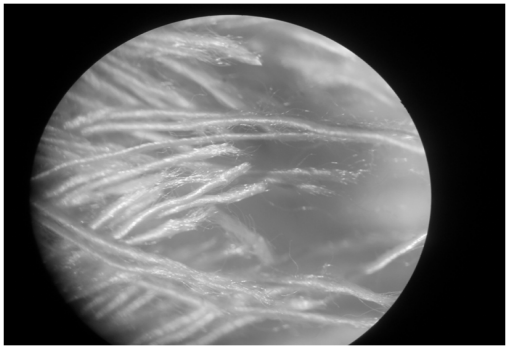


Microphotograph of part of a fabric strip used in a suicidal hanging. The light- coloured material is skin from the neck of the deceased. Traces of human skin are normally found on a particular region of the ligature in cases of normal suspended hanging. Failure to find human skin in the correct position, is a cause for suspicion, and must be explained.

Microscopical evidence.

All criminal cases are examined microscopically, to seek possible trace evidence and to look for evidence of abrasion or contact polishing. Stereomicroscopy is also used to establish the exact routes of particular strands, without committing the cardinal sin of destroying evidence by loosening the knot.

I use a number of microscopes, the most powerful of which is capable of magnifying up to 1350 times. However most forensic examinations are carried out using stereomicroscopes, at magnifications of between 5x and 98x



Micro photograph showing part of a braided training shoe lace. The two thread ends in the centre of the field can be seen to have been cut with a sharp instrument. Other threads to left of centre have broken. More sophisticated microscopy would be required if it was desired to establish whether the cut has been made by a knife, or by a double bladed instrument such as a pair of scissors.

Forensic scientists become so accustomed to examining exhibits under a microscope, that they tend to undertake commonplace tasks in the same way. I normally examine knife blades at 16 - 32x magnification after sharpening, to check upon the nature and direction of the edge burr. I commonly remove thorns and splinters from my hands at 8x magnification: and when I made a bat detector, I did all of the soldering of the circuit board under a binocular microscope.

It is not surprising therefore, that forensic scientists would regard the examination of knotted exhibit by naked eye alone, with concern and dismay.

Rodger H. Ide BSc., CSci., CChem., FRSC., FIFire E., CBiol., MIBiol, FFSSoc., RFP.
Senior Partner, Forensic Science Investigations.

1 Robert Chisnall. The Forensic Analysis of Knots and Ligatures
2 Robert G. Bone. Unpublished Survey.
3 Ashley Book of Knots <366>
4 Ashley Book of Knots <1009>
5 Cooke and Ide. Principles of Fire Investigation

This is the first half of an article to be published in two parts. The second part, dealing with the types of knots used in cases of hanging, strangulation and bondage, will be published in the next edition of Knotting Matters.

The Beatrice Splice; Re-Examined, Demonstrated and Designated as a New Knot?

[This splice form was explained, partly, in John Kemp's article of KM 83 (June 2004) and in the later article by Geoffrey Budworth in KM 93 (December 2006) - Photographs, on page 29, by your editor, of sample splices by Beatrice - Ed.]

A letter received on the 30th of July, 2007, from Beatrijs van Westerop states, in part:

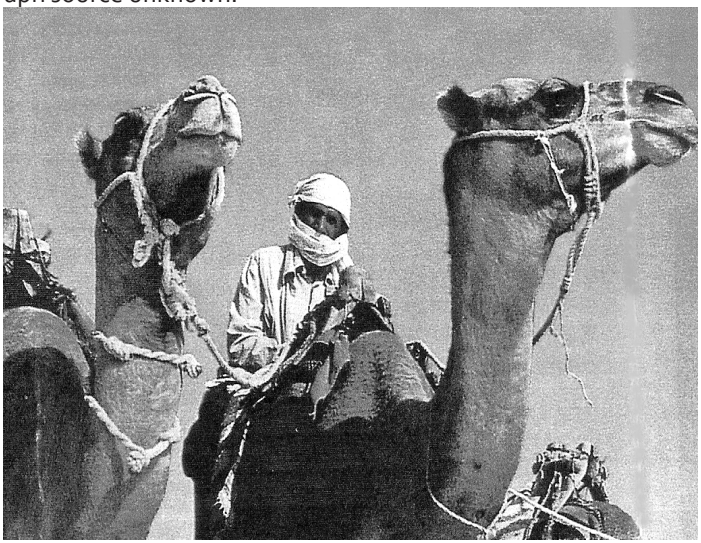
"In this envelope you will find the Beatrice Splice in stages, I am sure you can find the right order. I also enclosed some photographs, made in the pre-digital era, not in bits and bites available.
Also enclosed are a couple of other applications of one half of the splice, to be used in many different ways. Half the splice, i.e. three loops around another piece of rope or a stick or any other object, has been used for a long time in North Africa, in the headgear of camels and the like ...a copy of which I have enclosed as well...
I hope you can help me take that last step and have the knot acknowledged....

Regards,

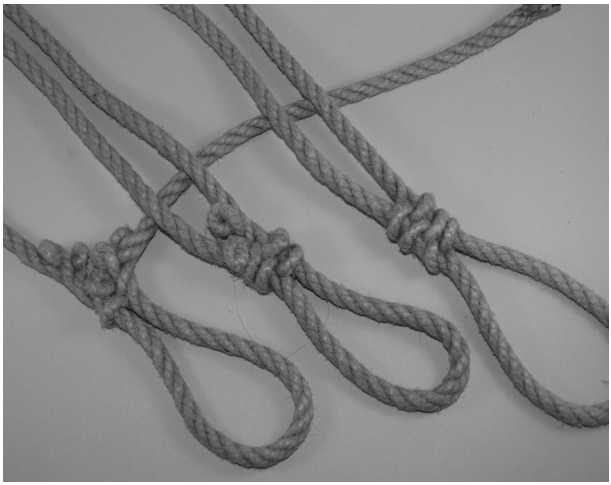
Beatrijs van Westerop

Photographs from Beatrice:
Top left - Beatrice's niece on a set of dowels rigged as a ladder
Top right - Beatrice on a spliced ladder
Lower left - spliced to a spar
Lower right - Beatrice's step-son Tim on a spliced ladder.

Photograph below - camels using the Beatrice half-splice in North Africa. Photograph source unknown.



Stages in making the Beatrice splice: Left; open one strand in first part of working part and thread standing part through twisted bight, then open two more strands each spaced at one strand apart; Center; pass working part through first opened strand in standing part, then repeat for next two strands of standing and working parts; Right; the finished full splice with each of the standing and working parts alternately passed through a twisted strand bight of the other, three times for three strand and four times for four strand - Note: access to standing and working parts is necessary!



Below: Clockwise from lower right; end tucked through three adjacent strand bights in four views; top right; quick half-splice with strands separated by three strands, thereby loading three separate strands of the original line.

BOOK REVIEW

Lucky Breaks by Susan Patron

Reviewed by Geoffrey Budworth

Illustrated by Matt Phelan & published (2009) by *ginee seo* books, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon Schuster Children's Publishing Division (New York, London, Toronto, Sydney)

Price **US $16.95/CAN $18.99** ISBN-13: **978-1-4169-3998-6**

[This is a sequel to the author's John Newbery medal-winning novel The Higher Power of Lucky reviewed in KM #96 (September 2007).]

Located again in the defunct Californian silver mining town of Hard Pan (pop. 43), on the edge of the Mojave Desert, Lucky lives in a trailer-cum-café with her French guardian Brigitte and dog HMS Beagle. Feisty but feminine, on the eve of her 11th birthday, she is determined to be a famous scientist like Charles Darwin.

Her companions are the avid knot tyer Lincoln (11 ½) and Miles (soon to be 6) who has a genius IQ and is trying to read Brain Surgery for Beginners. But now Lucky has a girl-friend and soul-mate, Paloma ('Dove') Wellborne who is visiting from L.A. Other Hard Pan characters include Short Sammy, the Captain, Klincke Ken, Dot and Mrs. Prender…and there are cameo appearances by the Guild's own Geoffrey Budworth and his wife.

Susan Patron is a true friend of the Guild who has written another gentle account of smart youngsters coping with such diverse and disparate considerations as: cup cakes, a burro named Chesterfield, light pollution (and whether our galaxy resembles a fried egg or a ring donut), tomato worms, things to do with a cast-iron bathtub, and how to help Brigitte acquire California-ness now that she has her Green Card.

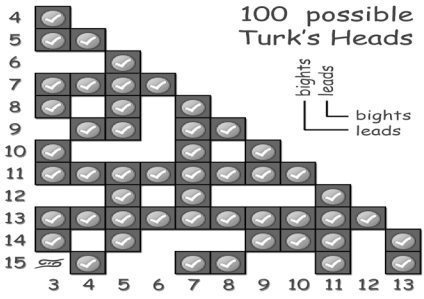
But Lucky, whose DNA enables her to fan her toes, discovers that she also has a meanness gene when she sabotages the knot project that could win Lincoln a year-long trip away from her to the IGKT in England although, perversely, she resents his friendship with Paloma. Then, when she becomes trapped at the bottom of the remote and abandoned Lost Brooch Well – seeking a legendary artifact for the Found Object Wind Chime Museum and Visitor Center – it is Paloma who goes for help and Lincoln who must somehow extricate her. Only Lucky, however, can rescue her own self-esteem and regain the trust of family and friends.

Suitable for ages 8 – 12 (and sensible grown-ups), this latest episode in the life of the Hard Pan community is a 176 page-turning, heart-warming delight.
Susan is now working on the final part in her Lucky/Hard Pan trilogy.
G.B.

A Hundred Turks Heads with an Easy Scalable Chart

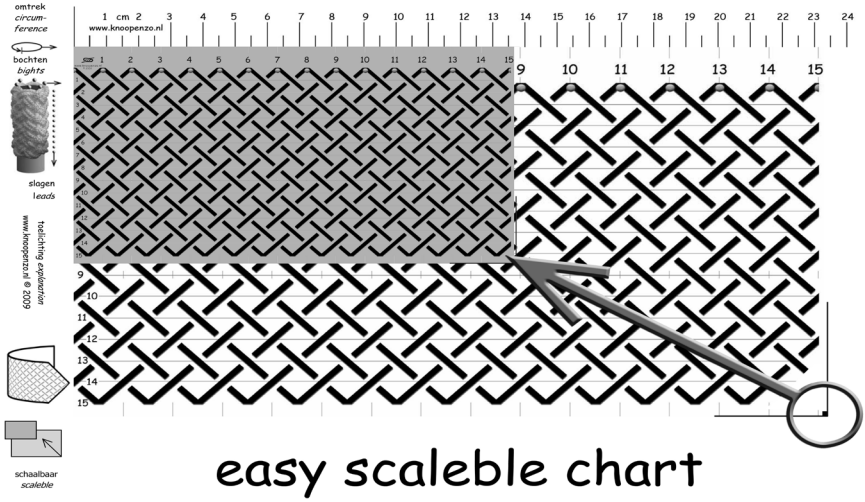
by **Theo Slijkerman**

There are a lot of combinations of bights and leads to make a Turks head from one piece of rope. In [the] enclosed diagram I have indicated a hundred possibilities.



Paper charts to make the knot are well known. Geoffrey Budworth, for one, published such a chart in his book "Decorative Knots". But to scale the chart simple digitally to the desired measure is new! (I think)

My solution is offered on my Internet site www.knoopenzo.nl. The chart has been made as an MS-Word document but can also be used in the open source freeware OpenOffice. You stipulate the circumference of the knot and the number of bights.



A measuring rod is present in the document and with this tool it is easy to reduce the chart to the desired circumference.

Simply select the chart and move the bight-number to the proper measure; now, print and get to work. It's also possible to calculate the rope length.

Letters from Abroad - Well, a Long Way Away from Here Anyway…

Dear Sir,

If anything argues for the basic skills of knot tying to be taught to every child as a fundamental part of the National Curriculum then surely it is this excerpt from the 30.11.08 Observer newspaper report of the Mumbai Massacre -

"They felt their only hope lay in getting out through the window. Tying together bedsheets, curtains and towels, they made a makeshift rope and [Will] Pike used a marble table to smash through the window. He volunteered to go first to make sure it was strong enough … 'We threw the rope out of the window and it was not bad, given that it was 60 ft to the ground. But clearly I never did my Boy Scout knot badge because my knots were rubbish,' Pike said. 'I put all my weight on the rope and the last thing I remember was falling. I remember looking up and seeing the ledge going away and the rope falling down with me. The next thing … I was on the ground looking at the bone shards sticking out of my wrist.' In the room, [his girlfriend Kelly] Doyle had watched him disappear from view. '… I just saw the knot untangle and there was no sound and then I heard him drop to the floor.'

Keep up the good work with the magazine.

Best wishes
Giles (Dr Giles Camplin, Editor of The Airship Heritage Trust Journal - Dirigible London SE15 2AF Tel: 020 7732 0488 www.airshipsonline.com)

Commercial Knot Boards

I assume that most Guild members are familiar with those pretty knot boards made somewhere where English is not the first language. They are normally on sale in tourist shops, at market stalls and cheaper style galleries. In the last couple of decades I think I have only ever seen one that did not have some error in naming of knot(s) beautifully engraved on dinky little brass plates. On one occasion I found one with all twelve knots misnamed. I was tempted to buy it but the price was beyond a joke.
Recently I discovered a board with the following engravings.
REEF KONT; TWOHEAR TS THATBEA TASONE; REET KNOT; THREF KNOT
Again I resisted the temptation to purchase. I am left wondering if these items produced with name plates in other languages, and if similar errors are displayed.

Frank Brown

Branch Lines

All Branches

What: Half-year General Meeting
When: Oct 9 - 11 2009
Location: New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford, MA USA

Airlines: Nearest International airport is Boston, MA
Hotels: They are next to each other and run by the same group

Residence Inn 181 Faunce Corner Rd, Dartmouth MA. Single Suite $159. per night, Phone 508-984-5858
Comfort Inn 171 Faunce Corner Rd, Dartmouth MA. Single Rm $109.95 per night, Phone 508-996 0800
Tell them you are with the International Guild of Knot Tyers.
Also, there is a Days Inn motel about two miles out of town for $79 per night, double occupancy, some smoking rooms available

Pre-meeting activities to include tour of New England Rope Company, a commercial net maker and, of course, R&W Rope Warehouse.

At the museum, we will have the Azorean Maritime Foundation give a talk or continuous showing on their whaling boat and practice. Also, at least one small tall ship should be back from the shipyard and is just across the street at the dock..

Pre-meeting activities to include tour of New England Rope Company, a commercial net maker, and of course, R&W Rope Warehouse.
Additional trips are being looked into: A visit to the Mystic Seaport, in Mystic Conn. USA, Charles Towne Ship Yard (Home Port to the USS Constitution) in Boston, MA USA and Newport Harbor, New Port RI USA

For further information please contact Bob Dollar (R&W Rope) RDollar@hotmail.com or Bob@RWRope.com or Dan Machowski DanMachowski@bellsouth.net

Dutch (Nederland) Branch

Here are the details for the proposed meeting as a secondary meeting in Autumn 2009:
The date we are thinking about is the last Saturday of October, maybe the last Saturday of September, or any date in between if we can get the space only then, but we prefer not to use the same date as the meeting in the USA.

We hope to use one of the halls in the Havenmuseum, Leuvehaven 50, 3011 EA Rotterdam.
http://www.havenmuseum.nl/engels.start
This is a link to the site of the Museum in English.

We are talking about the Verolme Pavilion, which according to the museum can handle up to 100 people. It has a bar, for coffee, tea and if wanted beer, and a toilet group including a wheelchair accessible one. This is the nearest building to the boat de Hoop where we have our monthly meetings. We also expect to have the boat open at the same time, giving us a little more space still. (De Hoop is not wheelchair accessible.)

At the far end of the Haven Museum is a hotel, in one of the side streets is an apartment hotel; if there are takers we can rent one or more apartments for the time of the meeting. As there are many restaurants near we do not know yet if we are going to arrange a lunch. Dinner will be in town, most likely, but we have a half year to get that sorted.

For Friday and Sunday there are already activities thought up.

If we can not get the museum to let us use the space for free, (Jan Oudeland who is going to ask for us is a volunteer for the museum and hopes he can arrange it,) or for an amount of money we can agree on, we are willing to look for another location; several options are open.

Notice posted to Hon Sec by Willeke van der Ham

French Branch

A note (in French) from Graham MacLachlan:

Bonjour à tous, je viens de mettre quelques album photos en ligne de nos AG précédentes, les liens sont sur le forum, rubrique "Événements",
bonne visite, Graham
[Here is the web-site, with links under "Evenements" for your pleasure www.igktfrance.com - Ed]
Bonjour à tous,

Lors des fêtes, l'organisation des Fériales Littorales à Cancale propose à nourrir et à loger une dizaine de nos adhérents... les premiers inscrits seront les premiers servis!
Pour plus d'info sur les Fériales, visitez le forum à www.igktfrance.com, rubrique événements.

à bientôt
Graham

German Branch

[The following translation needs some TLC - anyone able to provide a translation consistent with English usage, please contact the editor at knottingmatters@igkt.net - thanks! Ed]

Translation
German Branch Meeting details

Meetings of the International Guild of Knot Tyers in the
International Maritime Museum of Hamburg!!!
The German section of the International Guild of Knot Tyers invites [you] to the meeting of the knot tyers. The meeting is in [the]

International Martime Museum of Hamburg, Quay memory B
Koreastr. 1
20457 Hamburg
on the **24th July – 26th July, 2009.**

The members of the international guild of the knot tyers show hitting [?] from knot and splices of ropes and a huge number of artistic rope work work from Germany, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands.
Who has interest, in to take part to the meeting of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, can do itself with Peter Willems announce.
Registration up to the 1st May, 2009

Contact:
Peter Willems
Bau'er Landst.200 C
24939 Flensburg
Peter Willems (International Guild of Knot Tyers, German section)
Tel.: 0461 / 731 76
[Ed. - I believe that this translation was provided by a machine translation service - sing Ho! for a person!!]

A chuckle sent by **Tony Fisher in New Zealand** - enjoy!

A 1st grade school teacher had twenty-six students in her class. She presented each child in her classroom the 1st half of a well-known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading, keep in mind that these are first-graders, 6-year-olds, because the last one is a classic!

1. Don't change horses - until they stop running.
2. Strike while the - bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before - Daylight Saving Time.
4. Never underestimate the power of - termites.
5. You can lead a horse to water but - How?
6. Don't bite the hand that - looks dirty.
7. No news is - impossible
8. A miss is as good as a - Mr.
9. You can't teach an old dog new - Math
10. If you lie down with dogs, - you'll stink in the morning.
11. Love all, trust - Me.
12. The pen is mightier than the - pigs.
13. An idle mind is - the best way to relax.
14. Where there's smoke there's - pollution.
15. Happy the bride who - gets all the presents.
16. A penny saved is - not much.
17. Two's company, three's - the Musketeers.
18. Don't put off till tomorrow what you - put on to go to bed.
19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and - You have to blow your nose.
20. There are none so blind as - Stevie Wonder.
21. Children should be seen and not - spanked or grounded.
22. If at first you don't succeed - get new batteries.
23. You get out of something only what you - See in the picture on the box
24. When the blind lead the blind - get out of the way.
25. A bird in the hand is - going to poop on you.

And the WINNER and last one!

26. Better late than - Pregnant

Midlands Branch

DATES FOR 2009 BRANCH MEETINGS.

8 Jun 09 – Turks head BN

10 Aug 09. – Sword Matting CJ

19 Oct 09 - Eye and back splicing

14 Dec 09 – Branch Xmas meal.

[The following article, and diagram on page 38, has been reprinted at the request of Owen Nuttall - it originally appeared in KM #23, in 1988 - Ed]

The Carrick Bend
(The Falmouth Way)

Of all the bends to a knotsman the Carrick Bend must be one of the most easily recognised by its configuration. The basic configuration can be traced as far back as the 1350-1375 century B.C. to the tomb of Tut-Anuk. The basic structure of the Carrick Bend has been found in Africa, Persia, Greece and China. Though we know it best from Celtic and Pict art.

Most of the above appear in drawings and embroidery. It was the Celts with their ornate embellishments which was later adopted in religious drawings(the Book of Kells)

When it became the Carrick Bend a knot as we know it is unknown. It must have been used before the eleventh century where it was known as the Wake knot(a heraldic knot on Hereward the Wake shield 1035-1072).

I think the current name came from Falmouth, the river Fal in known as the Carrick roads, though boats called Carricks plied their trade between Falmouth and Truro,(the motif for Falmouth district is the Carrick Bend).

To tie this bend the easiest way is to follow fig 1. It does not matter if the left hand is on top of the right hand, the end result will be the same. With a little practice the size of the loop and the length of the working ends, depending on the size of the rope or cord. I have used this method of tying the Carrick Bend before I joined the Guild in 1984. I called it the Falmouth way of tying this knot in memory of the happy times deep sea fishing out of Falmouth. It was first shown in K.M. 23 1988.

I have shown three versions of this knot but I have also tied many more using this basic start (fig.1), including A.B.K 1452 (Ashley's Bend) in K.M. 51 Knot manipulations.

I hope this method of tying the Carrick Bend will be of use to fellow knot tyers.

Owen K. Nuttall

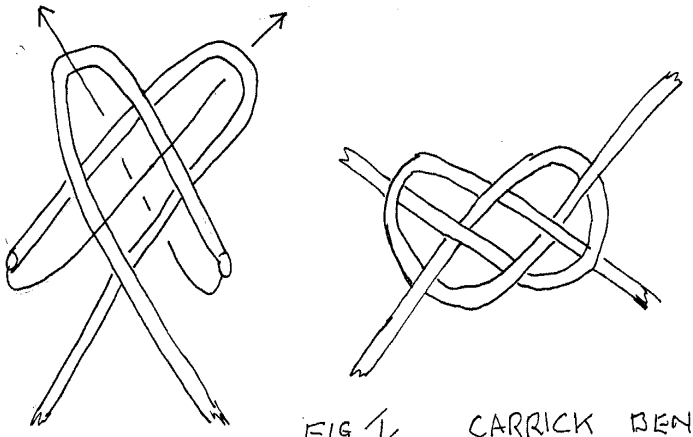


FIG I CARRICK BEND.

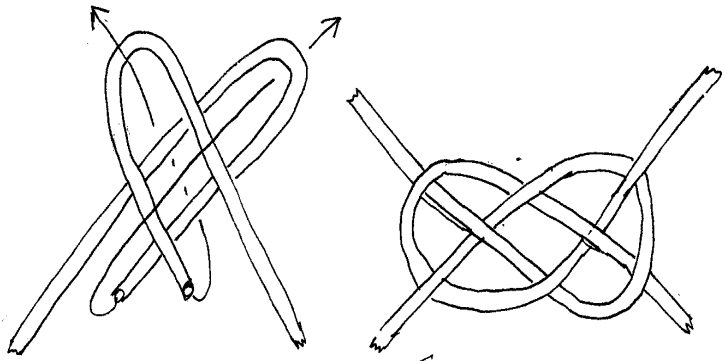
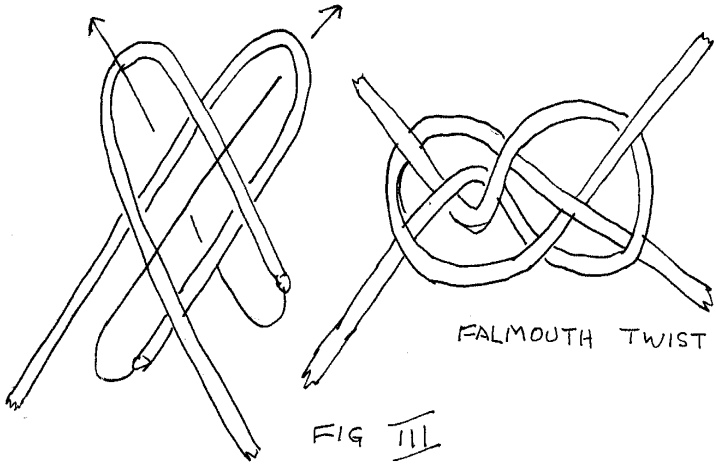


FIG II CHECK OR DELAY.



FALMOUTH TWIST

FIG III

Mid-Atlantic Region, NAB

The MAR (Mid-Atlantic Region of the IGKT-NAB) held a meeting at the USS Constellation in Baltimore's Inner Harbor on Saturday, March 29, 2009. The Constellation, built in 1854 (or perhaps completely re-built from the earlier Revolutionary War frigate Constellation), was the last all-sail warship built by the US Navy, and is now a museum ship. We held the meeting in the museum office above the entrance and gift-shop, where the Ship's crew graciously allowed us to use their conference table and coffee-maker.

A group of knotters meets regularly every other week aboard Constellation to do traditional marlinspike rigging work aboard ship. For information about the Constellation, check out its website at http://www.constellation.org. For information about the Volunteer Riggers group, email Kevin Zembower at kzembower@verizon.net.
About eleven of us showed up for the meeting, from as far away as a three-hour drive from New Jersey. Even more impressive, Gray Messick came all the way from Largo, MD (near Washington D.C.) via public transportation – in his wheelchair! We're glad you made it Gray. Gray brought some of his amazing netting work, astounding for its intricacy (pictures 821-822). We gathered at 10:00 and talked about ourselves and our various knotting projects for about an hour (see pictures #786 - 800). Then, Brian O'Neel taught us all how to make the Little Lump Knot. He generously had made up key fobs up to the point of the Little Lump knot (picture # 816) so that we could all focus on learning this variation of the footrope knot. Although our knowledge levels stretched from beginner to expert, we all managed to produce some semblance of the knot by around 1:00 p.m. (pics 817- 820).

The literal "high" point of the meeting came when the Ship's crew came in and asked if someone could climb the rigging and rescue a flag that was inadequately tied at the bottom. Kevin and James clambered up and rescued the flag, then went up to the fighting top to check for pirates (they went through the lubbers hole, rather than around the edge - pictures 806-813). We then chatted about knots some more until about 2:00. At that time, about half of us had to leave, and the rest went over to Pizzaria Uno for some lunch and more knot talk.

Every one of us agreed we learned a lot at this meeting, and had a lot of fun. Although a smaller MAR group has been meeting semi-regularly near Silver Spring, Maryland, we met a lot of new people at this meeting, and now feel like we are a sizable group with an extensive variety of knotting skills and knowledge. If any of you live near to the Baltimore-Washington area (you can decide what "near" means to you), and want to be included on our email list for future group communications, let me know (nexialist02@yahoo.com). We'd love to see you at future meetings, or the Riggers Workshops.

Michael Pollock

[Photographs on web-site - Ed]

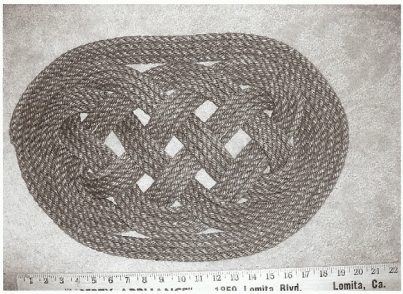
The children of the Boys and Girls Club, Vancouver, Washington State, USA on the bridge they built.

Making their sections of braiding for the suspension lines.

Pacific Americas Branch

During our meeting on the evening of April 14, Jose brought in some quarter inch manila that we used to make several Ocean Plat Mats for donation to the Los Angeles Maritime Institute to be sold/auctioned during their annual fund raising dinner on May the 2nd. One of the completed mats is pictured below. [The manila is over forty years old and has been tarred to preserve it - it is as dry as an old chip and very hard to work - an antique line for an antique doormat design! - Ed]

We also received generous donations of knot work from Maggie Machado, Dan Callahan, Glen Sherwood, Tom Mortell, and Mike Storch. LAMI was very grateful for the work that was done for their cause. (I hope I didn't leave anyone out.)

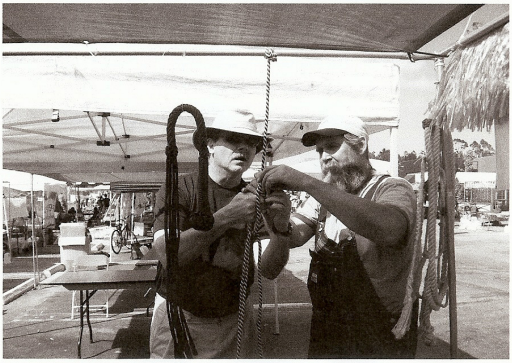


And we had a pretty good time at the STAR ECO Station's Earth Day Celebration on the 26th of April. Mike Bromley, Lindsey Philpott, and Jimmy Williams represented the Pacific Americas Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers there. From that festival, in the picture below left, Lindsey is showing the kids how to make their own piece of rope and Jimmy is working hard as an anchor (my best performance that day?).

We had a lot of kids that were very excited to leave our booth with a section of rope they had made themselves!

Mike (Our PAB President, on right, below) had a lot of fun teaching one passerby how to tie a "trucker's hitch". At nearly every function we attend, we have at least one person, if not more, ask for instructions on that hitch.

We are looking forward to the Newport Beach American Legion Yacht Club's Wooden Boat Festival on the 8th of August, where we have been invited to show knots and knotting. I hope to have some pictures from that event for the next "Branch Bits."



Jimmy R. Williams

Spirit Knot Tyers

North American Branch
Charleston, SC USA

The group has still been holding its monthly gatherings on the 4th Sunday of the month aboard the USS Yorktown, with more activities centering on assisting the training of new volunteers for the Spirit of South Carolina. Also new for the group, is an additional meeting venue at the Maritime Foundation's new office facilities. This will allow the holding of week-night meeting times and bring the true feeling of a home to the group.
As the winter season turns to spring and then to summer, the realization that our flagship will soon be setting sail, out of our southern area, bound for a summer off the New England and Canadian shores, the main concern is preparing for this year's Charleston Harbor Festival (http://charlestonharborfest.org) [June 26 – 29, 2009]. The goal of at least 20 tall ships from around the world to call upon the port city is expected to be broken and the need for more guild members (and knot tyers in general) to help interact with the expected crowd is also becoming a welcome problem. If anyone would like to be part of one of the largest gatherings of tall ships in many years, please contact Dan Machowski (DanMachowski@bellsouth.net) or Skip Still (SkipCrafts@bellsouth.net). Free admission to the ships, as well as a tee shirt, lunch and a party will be the reward for all volunteers who work.

From North Carolina:

About 4 or 5 years ago I was working with the Cubs at a mall. No one had ever put much up at the show for Cubs and Knots. One of my efforts was to make a simulated shoe. I had other challenges and this young lady stopped at my stand. She was looking at some of the knots I had made and took attention of the wooden shoes. A question popped up about keeping kids shoes tied. I said you might try..... and that was the beginning.

I was helping a friend who was presenting at the school. I was again working with a "idiot YoYo" and the teacher ask: can you do something with these kids? I was shocked when she said no one wanted to work with kids of 7 & 8 years old. So it began! I put on my Boy Scout Uniform and get a bucket of rope; and 'way we went. The kids can hardly wait for the man with knots. We work (play) with "idiot YoYo's", throw ropes (with monkey fist) at open large buckets. They go through a tunnel of half-hitches and as they go they turn the hitches into a 'overhand knot'. We tie shoes that stand together longer with an extra turn.

Oh, the idiot yoyo started with a small Monkey Fist knot. Because of the ""danger"" I've just shown the monkey fist yoyo to the kids, and I use a small rubber ball for the kids to use. They use a string about 30 inches and they jerk the ball straight up while making a loop for the ball to fall back through. If done [right] it makes an overhand knot, and the kids (teachers too) think it is great. I always make many small things (knots) for the kids to keep and tell mom and dad about school today. I asked for help one time and the man said okay (a little younger than me). He has helped me two seasons and has become a member of IGKT. We will be doing another session with the kids (and teachers) this spring.

Knot such a big deal, but you did ask about what is happening.
Burl R Williams - North Carolina, USA
[A VERY big deal - thanks Burl! - Ed]

WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH

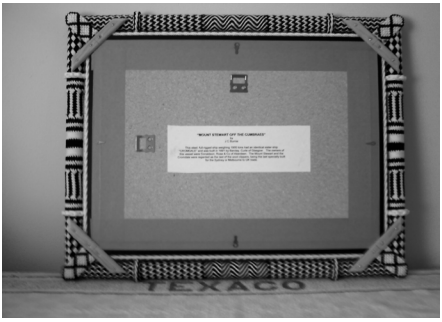
Our March meeting was about occupational knots and we had Owen Nuttall to give us a talk on the practical side of knotting, its evolvement and subsequent demise with the introduction of more modern techniques. Ken Nelson gave a presentation about wagon sheeting and roping and illustrated the more modern way using ratchet straps. I was able to give some information about the knots that surgeons use though some of these are being replaced by staples, steri strips and super glue. Ann Walker had been talking to a wig maker and brought along examples of that craft, then we had Dave Walker to talk about butchers knots and give a demonstration of how to link sausages (it's a drummer boy's plat with a twist). When we broke for lunch we cooked some of the sausages; being thrifty northerners we couldn't let such a commodity go to waste. With twenty one members present we had a good day and now look forward to our outdoor events through the summer.

David Pearson
[Look for forthcoming dates in the Calendar section - Ed]

Lindsey,

Many thanks for your interest in my frame. As to the print, I bought it from the museum shop here in Greenock. The information that came with it reads: "Mount Stewart off the Cumbraes" by J. C. Burnie. This steel full-rigged ship weighing 1900 tons had an identical sister ship "Cromdale" and was built in 1891 by Barclay, Curle of Glasgow. The owners of this vessel were Donaldson, Rose & Co. of Aberdeen. The Mount Stewart and the Cromdale were regarded as the last of the wool clippers, being the last specially built for the Sydney or Melbourne to U.K. trade.

The reason for the outer frame is that I wanted to incorporate cylindrical work in the job. The inner frame is covered with half- hitch work, as are the corner pieces. The outer frame is four pieces of dowelling covered with various patterns of "fid work". Turk's heads are attached for embellishment and to act as spacers so as to leave a gap between the frames. I used 2 m.m. black and white polypropylene throughout.
I have attached a photo of the back to show how I secured the outer frame.



The frame is for my sister, who wanted a scene of local interest. I hope this is enough information for you, Lindsey. If not, please let me know and I wish you the best of luck in your new post.

Regards.
Joe Bennett, Greenock.

Knotting Diary and Calendar

GUILD MEETINGS

Half-Yearly General Meeting 2009
Weekend of October 10th/11th, 2009
New Bedford, Mass., USA
See article on page 33.

Branch Meetings

Alaskan Branch
Every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E. 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact: Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
18th April, 2009
Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket
Suffolk
Contact: John Halifax
Tel: 01502 519 1233
e-mail: johnendeavor-knots@tiscali.co.uk

French Branch
Contact Graham Maclachlan
www.igktfrance.com

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

NorthWest Branch
14th June 2009
Branch meeting.
Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival.
20th-21st June 2009
We have been invited to this event & asked to display ropework and traditional knot craft.
Etruria Industrial Museum.
9th August 2009
Branch meeting.
Quarry Bank Mill Styal.
24th-25th October 2009
Christmas Get -to Gether and meal
Sunday 13th December 2009
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday of the month (except December)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614-6002

Netherlands Special Meeting
October 31, November 1, 2009
De Hoop & Haven Museum
Rotterdam
Contact: Willeke van der Ham
e-mail: willeke@knopen.ismijnhobby.nl

North American Branch - East Region
Contact: None available at press time
Tel: See handbook

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month,
except July and August
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: 1-310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@yahoo.com

Solent Branch
April 14th, 2009 @ 7:30 pm
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: 023 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
8th June 2009 (Summer Social)
7th September 2009
26th October 2009
7th December 2009 (Christmas Social)
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00hrs. Please phone for more details.
Contact: Secretary, Peter Goldstone
+44(0)1483 763054

Sussex Branch
1st Monday of every other month
March 2nd, 2009; 8 pm
Sussex Yacht Club
Contact: Charlie Tyrrell
Tel: 01798 344258

Sweden
June 27-28
Meeting at Karlskrona
September 19
Meeting at Repslagarmuseet Älvängen
Contact: Olof Nystrom tel. 08 265065
Pille Repmakar'n tel 08 6110144

West Country Knotters
Last Saturday of odd months
July 25th, 2009 @ 1300 hrs(?)
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch
Stainforth Canal Festival 27th June
Dewsbury Canal Festival 26 th July
Branch meeting 15 November
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Deadline Dates

Until further notice, the deadlines for getting material to the Editor are as follows:

For the September 2009 issue	1st of August, 2009
For the December 2009 issue	1st of November, 2009
For the March 2010 issue	1st of February, 2010
For the June 2010 issue	1st of May, 2010

SPECIAL NOTICE

Inland Waterways Association

IWA National Festival & Boat Show Red Hill Marina, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire
August 29th - 31st, 2009

For further details contact Colin Grundy

ESCUELA A.R.C. GLORIA
MARINERO PRIMERO
E. CARABALLO
COLOMBIA
BUQUE ESCUELA ARC "GLORIA"